GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3523
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
SMUGGLING OF IDOLS
RADHA MOHAN SINGH;REENA CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise details of incidents of theft and smuggling of rare idols under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), reported during the last two years;

(b) whether there has been a spurt in the theft and smuggling of idols during the said period; and

(c) the measures being taken to check the same and the details of action taken against those found guilty?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) A few thefts have been reported from the protected monuments / sites under the Archaeological Survey of India during the last two years. The State-wise detailed information is placed at the statement (Annexure).

(b) No, Sir. There is no spurt in thefts and smuggling during the said period.

(c) Measures have been drawn up by the Archaeological Survey of India in consultation with the enforcing agencies like the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs and the State Governments to check the theft of antiquities and their smuggling by stepping up vigilance and intensifying checking at the Customs exit points, as well as by strict enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. Armed guards have also been deployed at selected centrally protected monuments and museums under the Archaeological Survey of India.

Furthermore, apart from its own Watch and Ward staff, the Archaeological Survey of India, also engages the services of private security agencies for protection of the centrally protected monuments, sculpture sheds and museums, to provide security & keep a watch over the antiquities housed in these monuments, sites and museums. The cases of thefts, as indicated in the statement (Annexure), are under investigation.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3523 T
ANSWERED ON 7.4.2003

Statement showing the number of theft cases during the last two years (State-wise from lst January, 2001 to till date)

SL.NO.	NAME OF STATE	NAME OF MONUMENT/ SITES & DISTRICT	DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS	DATE OF THEFT	STATUS OF THE CASE	ACTION TAKEN
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Sri Kapoteswara Swamy temple, Chejerla, Nakarikallu Mandal, Distt. Guntur	Small stone sculpture of Nandi	11/12.3.03	FIR lodged	Under investigation
2.	Bihar	Jain temple Vaibhav Hills, Rajgir	Three sculptures (1) standing Mahavir (2) standing Mahavir (3) Parasnath	15.8.2001	FIR lodged and out of three, one has been recovered from nearby bushes	-do-
3.	Gujarat	Open Sky Museum, Patan, Distt. Mehsana	Two idols	9.11.2001	FIR lodged	Preliminary

	(1) Standing Ganesha (2) Brahma with his consort	enquiry conducted and responsible Monument attendants suspended			
4. Karnataka Distt. Bellary	Ruins of Hampi,	Lower left hand of Sasivekalu Ganesh	9.7.2001	FIR lodged	Under investigation
5. Madhya Pradesh Terahi,Distt.Shivpuri	Mohaj Mata Temple,	One sculpture of Ganesha	15.9.2001	FIR lodged	-do-
6. Madhya Pradesh Temple) at Sunahia, District Morena	Shiv Temple (Kakanmath	One Sculpture of Apsara	20.12.2001	FIR lodged	Under investigation
7. Madhya Pradesh Garhi Surwaya at Surwaya, District Shivpuri	Inside the temple,	1.Heads of both images of Lakshmi narayan 2.Fixed image of Shiv - Parvati	24.1.2002	FIR lodged	-do-
8. Madhya Pradesh known as Ambabai temple, Kundalpur, District Sagar	Rukmani Math locally	Standing couples of Jain God and Goddess	5.2.2002	FIR lodged	-do-
9. Madhya Pradesh District Vidisha	Sculpture shed Gyaraspur,	1.Head of female 2.Icon of Jain Tirthankar Mahavir	2.3.2002	FIR lodged	-do-
10. Madhya Pradesh District Vidisa	Bajramath, Gyaraspur,	Head of female	8.8.2002	FIR lodged	-do-
11 Madhya Pradesh Pali, Bandari Distt. Sagar	Mahadev temple, Village	Sculpture of Dikpal	12.8.2002	FIR lodged	-do-
12 Rajasthan Distt. Chittaurgarh	Ashtamata temple,Badoli,	Two female figures carved on pilaster	27.1.2001	FIR lodged	-do-
13 Rajasthan Distt. Bhilwara	Undeshwar temple,Bijolia,	One stone sculpture	24.2.2001	FIR lodged	-do-
14 Rajasthan distt. Baran	Ruins of temples,	One stone sculpture	13.2.2002	FIR lodged	Under investigation
15 Rajasthan Chandrabhaga Jhalrapattan, Distt. Jhalawar	Nav Durga temple,	One standing of Chamunda	28.8.2002	FIR lodged	-do-
16 Tamilnadu apuram, Distt.	Siva temple, Valikanth-				

	Perambalur	Five bronzes	2.3.2002	FIR lodged	-do-
17.	Tamilnadu	Jaina temple,Mettupudur, Distt. Erode	Five stone sculptures	21.7.2002	FIR lodged -do-
18	Tamilnadu	Apathsahayesvara temple, Sendaman-galam, Distt. Villupuram	One stone sculpture	14.11.2002	FIR lodged -do-
19	Tamilnadu	KadambarkoilNarthamalai Distt. Pudukkottai	Three stone sculptures	27.1.2003	FIR lodged -do-
20	Uttar Pradesh	Garwa Fort, Allahabad	One headless standing sculpture of Buddha	21.4.2002	FIR lodged -do-
21	Uttar Pradesh	Temples of Akona, distt. Mahoba	Stone Sculpture	2.2.2003	FIR lodged -do-
22	Uttranchal	Shiva Temple, Lakhamandal, Distt. Dehradun	Three sculptures from sculpture shed	24.2.2001	FIR lodged -do-
23	West Bengal	Basuli Devi temple, Nanoor, Distt. Birbhum	Image of goddess Bishalakshi	17.3.2001	FIR lodged -do-